

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, and 10-16 are pending upon entry of this amendment, with claims 1, 4, 7, and 10 being amended and claims 3 and 9 being canceled.

In the Office Action, Figs. 2 and 4 are objected to due to incorrect reference numerals. Submitted herewith are replacement pages for Figs. 2 and 4 that show the corrected reference numerals.

The disclosure is objected to due to a typographical error on page 10. A replacement paragraph is submitted herewith to correct the typographical error.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3-6 and 9-12.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over admitted prior art in view of U.S. Patent 5,671,181 to Hatsuda. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 7 are amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 3 and 9 in order to expedite prosecution. Thus, the rejection is moot.

It is submitted that the specification and all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Should further issues require resolution prior to allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 03-3975 under Order No. 82123/275255. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
Pillsbury Winthrop LLP

By: Caroline D. Dennison
Caroline D. Dennison
Reg. No.: 34,494
Tel. No.: (703) 905-2047
Fax No.: (703) 905-2500

CDD\bhs
1600 Tysons Boulevard
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 905-2000